

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this paper, claims 1-97 were pending in the present application. In the above amendments, claims 6, 31, and 56 were amended, claims 1-5, 55, and 69-97 were canceled, and new claim 98 was added. Therefore, after entry of the above amendments, claims 6-54, 56-68 and 98 will be pending in this application. Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Objection to Drawing Sheet 2

The Office Action objected to the drawings because they did not include certain references identified in the description, namely reference numbers 201, 202, 203, and 204. Applicant submits that the failure to include those reference numbers was due to a typographical error on Fig. 2. More specifically, the detailed description of the application makes use of reference numbers 201, 202, 203, and 204 while the drawing itself used reference numbers 101, 102, 103, and 104. The error is apparent when considering the descriptions of Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 together. Applicant has corrected Fig. 2 to recite the proper reference numbers. A Replacement Drawing that Applicant believes fully addresses the objection is being submitted with this paper.

Claims 6-31 Now Allowable

Independent Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Katsikas (U.S. 6,868,498), Cobb (U.S. 6,199,102), and Drummond (U.S. 6,546,416). However, in the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter recited in Claim 54 was allowable. More specifically, the Office Action states that the art of record, as exemplified by Cobb, fails to teach revoking the authorization of a sender if other recipients have requested to revoke the authorization. See Office Action at page 29, lines 5-15.

The substance of Claim 54 which was indicated as allowable has been incorporated into independent Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claim 6 is now allowable. In addition, Claims 7 to 30 depend on independent Claim 6, which is submitted as now allowable. Thus, Applicant further submits that dependent Claims 7 to 30 are allowable as dependent on an allowable independent claim. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections of Claims 6 to 30.

Claims 31-54 Now Allowable

Independent Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Katsikas (U.S. 6,868,498), Cobb (U.S. 6,199,102), and Drummond (U.S. 6,546,416). However, in the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claim 55 recited allowable subject matter. More specifically, the Office Action states that the art of record, as exemplified by Cobb, fails to teach an authorization system that includes a component for determining whether the sender is authorized based on other recipients for whom the sender is authorized to send communications. See Office Action at page 29, lines 5-15.

The substance of Claim 55 which recited the subject matter indicated as allowable has been incorporated into independent Claim 31. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claim 31 is now allowable. In addition, Claims 32 to 54 depend on independent Claim 31, which is submitted as now allowable. Thus, Applicant further submits that dependent Claims 32 to 54 are allowable as dependent on an allowable independent claim. Claim 55 has been cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections of Claims 31 to 54.

Claims 56-68 Now Allowable

Independent Claim 56 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. s 102 as anticipated by Cobb (U.S. 6,199,102), and Drummond (U.S. 6,546,416). However, in the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter recited in Claim 54 was allowable. More specifically, the Office Action states that the art of record, as exemplified by Cobb, fails to teach revoking the authorization of a sender if other recipients have requested to revoke the authorization. See Office Action at page 29, lines 5-15.

The substance of Claim 54 which was indicated as allowable has been incorporated into independent Claim 56. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claim 56 is now allowable. In addition, Claims 57 to 68 depend on independent Claim 56, which is submitted as now allowable. Thus, Applicant further submits that dependent Claims 57 to 68 are allowable as dependent on an allowable independent claim. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections of Claims 56 to 68.

Remaining Claims Cancelled Without Prejudice

Claims 1-5 and 69-97 have been cancelled in the interest of expediting the prosecution of this application. More specifically, Applicant submits that the cancelled claims may in fact recite patentable subject matter, but Applicant has chosen to cancel those claims in the interest of procedural economy. Applicant reserves the right to further prosecute those cancelled claims in a continuation or divisional of this application, and no presumption or conclusion of Applicant's intentions should be drawn based on the cancellation of those claims in this application.

New Claim 98

New dependent Claim 98 is presented for consideration. Claim 98 is fully supported by the original disclosure, and no new matter has been introduced.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending application in view of the preceding amendments and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

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